X-RAYS 1-10 NX

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BY EDWARD BUTLER

NEW YORK (UPI)--THE FIRST NONGOVERNMENT MEDICAL EXPERT TO EXAMINE THE X-RAYS AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY AFTER HIS ASSASSINATION SAID SUNDAY HE IS CONVINCED LEE HARVEY OSWALD ALONE FIRED THE FATAL SHOTS.

DR. JOHN K. LATTIMER OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY'S COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS SAID HIS EXAMINATION OF THE PATHOLOGICAL EVIDENCE "ELIMINATES ANY DOUBT COMPLETELY" ABOUT THE FINDINGS OF THE WARREN COMMISSION, WHICH CONDUCTED THE OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION.

THE COMMISSION FOUND THAT KENNEDY WAS KILLED NOV. 22, 1963 IN DALLAS BY TWO SHOTS OSWALD FIRED FROM THE TEXAS BOOK DEPOSITORY AS THE PRESIDENT'S MOTORCADE PASSED. THE COMMISSION WAS HEADED BY EARL WARREN, THEN THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT.

"I HAD DOUBTS ABOUT CERTAIN POINTS OF THE COMMISSION REPORT BEFORE I GOT TO SEE THE X-RAYS, BUT BASED ON WHAT I SAW THEY HAVE BEEN DISPELLED," LATTIMER TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE.

LATTIMER'S SPECIALTY IS UROLOGY. BUT AS AN ARMY DOCTOR DURING WORLD WAR II HE HAD EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE TREATING BULLET WOUNDS. SINCE THEN HE HAS MADE A STUDY OF ASSASSINATIONS BY GUNSHOTS AND HAS LECTURED AND WRITTEN ABOUT THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION.

LATTIMER WAS THE FIRST NONGOVERNMENT EXPERT PERMITTED TO SEE THE 65 X-RAYS, COLOR TRANSPARENCIES AND BLACK-AND-WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN AT THE KENNEDY AUTOPSY. THEY ARE IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

HE SAID THE WOUND THAT DESTROYED MOST OF THE RIGHT SIDE OF KENNEDY'S BRAIN WAS "HORRIBLE" AND THE PICTURES SHOULD NEVER BE MADE PUBLIC.

HE DISCUSSED AT LENGTH THE OTHER BULLET THAT PASSED THROUGH KENNEDY'S NECK. SKETCHES OF THE PATH OF THIS BULLET PUBLISHED BY THE COMMISSION SHOWED ITS TRAJECTORY AS NEARLY LEVEL.

BUT THE SKETCHES WERE MADE WITHOUT THE COMMISSION OFFICIALS OR STAFF MEMBERS HAVING ACCESS TO THE AUTOPSY X-RAYS OR PHOTOGRAPHS BECAUSE OF THE WISHES OF THE KENNEDY FAMILY. LATTIMER SAID THE COMMISSION WOULD HAVE MADE A STRONGER CASE IF THOSE WHO PREPARED THE FINAL REPORT HAD SEEN THE ITEMS.

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SKETCHES.

SOME CRITICS OF THE WARREN REPORT CONTEND THAT THIS BULLET WAS FIRED FROM A GRASSY KNOLL IN FRONT OF THE CAR WHILE THE BRAIN WOUND WAS INFLICTED FROM BEHIND, SO THERE MUST HAVE BEEN TWO ASSASSINS.

LATTIMER SAID, "IF ANYONE WERE TO HAVE SHOT HIM FROM THE FRONT, THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE SQUATTING ON THE FLOOR OF THE CAR IN FRONT OF HIM."

CRITICS ALSO HAVE SAID THE PRESIDENT WAS HIT IN THE NECK BY TWO BULLETS, ONE FROM THE FRONT AND THE OTHER FROM THE BACK.

LATTIMER SAID THE X-RAYS SHOW DEFINITELY THAT ONLY ONE BULLET PASSED THROUGH THE NECK, AND THE PICTURES PROVE IT ENTERED THE BACK OF THE NECK AND EMERGED THROUGH THE THROAT. THE COMMISSION DECIDED THAT THE SAME BULLET WOUNDED TEXAS GOV. JOHN B. CONNALLY, NOW TREASURY SECRETARY, WHO WAS SITTING ON A JUMP SEAT IN FRONT OF KENNEDY.

LATTIMER'S RESEARCH ON THE ASSASSINATION LED TO A SERIES OF ARTICLES FOR MEDICAL JOURNALS ON EXPERIMENTS HE MADE WITH A WEAPON SIMILAR TO THE SCOPE-SIGHTED MANNLICHER-CARCANO CARBINE FOUND IN THE TEXAS BOOK DEPOSITORY.

THE EXPERIMENTS SHOWED THE RIFLE COULD PUT A BULLET THROUGH 47 INCHES OF PINE WOOD. THUS THE BULLET THAT WENT THROUGH KENNEDY'S NECK WOULD HAVE BEEN POWERFUL ENOUGH TO WOUND HIM AND CONNALLY.

THE X-RAYS AND PICTURES WERE PLACED IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN OCTOBER, 1966, BY ROBERT F. KENNEDY, THEN U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL, WITH INSTRUCTIONS THAT ONLY CERTAIN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE TO SEE THEM FOR FIVE YEARS.

NOW THEY MAY BE VIEWED BY "RECOGNIZED EXPERTS IN THE FIELD OF PATHOLOGY OR RELATED AREAS OF SCIENCE OR TECHNOLOGY," SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF DEPUTY YALE LAW DEAN BURKE MARSHALL AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KENNEDY FAMILY.

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